

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Broadly speaking, a thermal sensing means, which is a negative temperature coefficient ("NTC") device **101** in this embodiment, is disposed at a convenient position to detect the instantaneous operational temperature of the hair dryer **10**. The output of the thermal sensing means is connected to an input port of the micro-controller unit **120** to provide the MCU with the sensed temperature information for appropriate action. The thermal sensing element, i.e., the NTC element in the present embodiment, is connected to a biasing circuit (V_{cc} , 104) so that the change in the electrical characteristics of the NTC member can be transformed into an electrical signal usable by the MCU **120**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 3 in which a second control and display circuitry of a preferred embodiment of the hair dryer is shown, the hair dryer circuit includes a motor **280** with a parallelly connected switchable shunt resistor controllable by the switch SW2 **250** for speed variation and a switchable ionising circuitry **261** providing ionised warm air to the hair for styling. In addition, a heater level control switch **260** SW1 switchable to a plurality of discrete heating power level settings are also shown. The operating conditions of the switch SW2 **250**, the ionising circuit **261**, and the heating level SW1 switch are connected to the input ports of a MCU. The output

of the MCU is connected to a display means **270** for displaying the operating conditions of the hair dryer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

In the preferred example of the display means and referring to the left-most column of the graphical displays, the first row of display corresponds to the operating setting number with the range of 1 to 5, the second row indicates the present heating power level setting in numerical form showing the wattage and the third row indicates whether the negative ~~[[iron]]~~ ion emission circuitry is in operation. On the right side, an 8-bar indicator is provided to indicate the temperature of the air exiting from the hair dryer. Usually, more lit bars will mean a higher temperature and when all the 8 bars are lit, it means the hair dryer is operating at its highest operating temperature.